

**OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**  
**October 8, 2018**  
**Report 18-32**

President Jenc called the Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 5:00 pm. The meeting was held at the Washington Campus, 645 Alger Street, Owosso, MI 48867.

Present: Tim Jenc, Sara Keyes, Ty Krauss, Rick Mowen, Cheryl Paez, Shelly Ochodnick, Marlene Webster  
Absent: All members were present

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Public Participation**

President Jenc stated that the Board of Education is a public body and recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues. Time has been included in the meeting's agenda for public participation. Members of the audience were reminded that they should announce their name and group affiliation when applicable and to limit their participation time to three minutes or less. Comments should be directed to the Board and be relevant to the business of the Board of Education. This is not an opportunity for dialogue with the Board of Education. The rules of common courtesy should also be observed.

There were no comments from the public.

**Bond Update**

Superintendent Tuttle introduced Gary Stellar, Construction Manager and Karen Middleton, Project Manager from Clark Construction Company to the Board of Education. Darrick Huff, Project Manager with Spicer Corporation was also welcomed to the meeting.

Karen Middleton informed the Board that she will be the onsite manager for the elementary, middle school and high school bond project. Ms. Middleton will be handling contracts, budgets contractual tracking, and scheduling for the bond construction. Mike Fillingier of Clark Construction will oversee quality, crew safety and field work.

Karen Middleton reported that a meeting was held earlier that day with building principals and Superintendent Tuttle. During the meeting the participants reviewed construction plans. A construction trailer will be placed on the grounds of Emerson Elementary later in the week and fencing will be installed on Friday. Traffic and student flows were studied at all elementary buildings prior to setting a logistics plan to ensure student safety at all times. Clark Construction has also worked very hard so that traffic flow will not be impeded during the construction phase. Ms. Middleton informed the Board that Central Elementary School will experience the most inconvenience during the construction phase due to the location of the building; however, all streets surrounding the school will remain open. The Board was assured that Clark Construction will work on parent concerns and school events throughout the construction phase.

The elementary design and construction plans for each elementary building was shared with the Board. A preliminary schedule was also provided. The master schedule will be updated on a weekly basis and shared with Superintendent Tuttle.

Gary Stellar reported that the plan is to have the elementary construction projects completed during the summer of 2019.

Superintendent Tuttle informed the Board that the Bond Committee will meet every Thursday at 1 pm in her office from this point forward. The Board of Education was invited to a groundbreaking ceremony on Wednesday, October 17, 2018 at 11 am on the grounds of Emerson Elementary School.

### **Sinking Fund**

Superintendent Tuttle reminded the Board that the last collection of the existing Sinking Fund will be collected in December 2018 for 1.5 million dollars. The five-year renewal that was approved by voters in August was decreased in the amount of mills assessed from 3.0 to 2.0 (\$2.00 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) and will collect approximately 1 million dollars annually.

An updated copy of the Sinking Fund Planning document that lists building improvements and their prioritization was reviewed by Mr. Darrick Huff, Project Manager with Spicer Group and Mr. John Klapko, Director of Operations. Mr. Huff reported that he and John Klapko have went through all District buildings to determine areas that need improvement. He informed the Board that roofs, parking lots, and plumbing are always issues. Upon review of the prioritizations, it was agreed that Central Elementary and Emerson Elementary classrooms that currently have carpeting will go through an abatement process to remove the carpeting and old tiles. The process will be scheduled for Christmas and Spring Recess when students are not in attendance. Other areas of concern that were discussed included the high school tennis courts and stairwell improvements at Emerson Elementary School.

A history of the District's Sinking Fund was reviewed by Superintendent Tuttle. She specifically referenced sinking fund language in regards to the use of sinking fund dollars for the purchase of real estate. A discussion took place about the Precision Electric building as a potential site for an expanded transportation facility. A second tour of the Precision Electric building will be arranged with key personnel for the purpose of determining what alterations would need to be made so the building could accommodate the needs of the Transportation Department.

### **Sale of Buildings**

A discussion regarding the process of selling school property and a variety of opportunities for the Board to consider took place. The District is exploring the sale of the middle school and acceptable uses for the building. Other properties that are being considered for possible sale include the bus garage, Cass Street warehouse, Cedar Street warehouse, and Green Meadows.

### **Student Count**

Superintendent Tuttle expressed her pleasure with the District's student count numbers. She stated that they had budgeted to be down 75 students but were up by 15 students when compared to the October 2017 count. Owosso Public Schools was one of only three school districts in the county that had an increase in student numbers.

### **Willman Field**

Superintendent Tuttle praised the Operations Department for their efforts to make Willman Field look great for the October 8<sup>th</sup> Band Festival that was being hosted by the District.

### **School Finance**

Superintendent Tuttle reported that a comprehensive statewide study examining school funding in Michigan, conducted by the School Finance Research Collaborative and released in January 2018, clearly demonstrates the need to reform Michigan's school funding system. The key findings of the new report indicate that the base per-pupil cost to educate a regular education K-12 student in Michigan is \$9,590, which does not include transportation, food service or capital cost.

### **M-STEP/SAT**

The Board was given time to take an example of the SAT reading test to see how rigorous the exam is. The SAT is given annually to students in the eleventh grade.

### **TMB Uniform Hats**

Superintendent Tuttle informed the Board that the Band Boosters have asked if they can sell the hats from the old freshmen band uniforms. Their intention is to sell the hats at the alumni band practice and during homecoming festivities. Superintendent Tuttle remarked that her only concern is that the old uniforms have not officially been declared obsolete by the Board of Education.

### **Memorial Healthcare**

Superintendent Tuttle shared information about a recent study that was conducted by Memorial Healthcare. The results of the study demonstrated that our local hospital ranked very high in comparison to other hospitals. However, they did not score well on the community's willingness to recommend the hospital. Superintendent Tuttle commented on how this information relates to the District and the way people perceive things within the community. She stressed the importance keeping messages and information about the District positive.

### **MASB Delegate Assembly**

The 2018 MASB Delegate Assembly will be held on Thursday, November 1, 2018, at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids during the 2018 MASB Annual Leadership Conference beginning at 7:30 pm. Trustee Marlene Webster and Vice President Rick Mowen agreed to represent the District as delegates at the assembly.

### **March 18, 2019 Board Meeting**

Due to the timing of the Trojan Marching Bands trip to Florida during the week of March 18, 2019, Superintendent Tuttle asked if the Board is willing to hold the March Board meeting on March 11, 2019 in place of the committee of the whole meeting. The Board stated that they did not have a problem with moving the March Board meeting date up one week.

### **Upcoming Meeting Dates**

October 22: Board of Education Meeting, 5:30 pm

November 12: Committee of the Whole, 5 pm

### **Adjournment**

Moved by Keyes, supported by Webster to adjourn at 7:35 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Clara Pitt

Respectfully submitted,

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Shelly Ochodnicky, Secretary